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## **U.S. IOOS awards \$31 million to support ocean observing**

*Regional network efforts support access to increasing critical data*

The NOAA-administered U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System has announced awards of more than \$31 million in grants to support ocean, coastal and Great Lakes observing efforts throughout the United States, Caribbean and Pacific.

Projects include maintaining and enhancing ocean observing infrastructure nationwide including high-frequency radars, ocean gliders, buoys, and more. Open data is a key priority, with emphasis on increasing availability and accessibility of data through new tools and data products, as well as expanded training opportunities and new regional partnerships.

"IOOS strives to work at the local level, and address regional priorities," said Zdenka Willis, U.S. IOOS director. "This helps to build more resilient communities and benefits a comprehensive national system. These grants reflect our commitment to maintaining that link from local stakeholders to regional, national and global observing systems."

- **Alaska Ocean Observing System:** \$2,546,480 for work along the Alaskan coast, the Arctic and Gulf of Alaska.
- **Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System:** \$1,702,787 for work in the Caribbean, including the coasts and waters around Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- **Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System** \$2,505,562 for work along the California coast, from Point Conception north to the state line.
- **Gulf Coast Ocean Observing System:** \$1,872,422 for work in the Gulf of Mexico, including coastline in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.
- **Great Lakes Observing System:** \$1,646,748 for work throughout the Great Lakes region.
- **Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System:** \$3,072,534 for work in the U.S. mid-Atlantic, from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, north to Cape Cod, Massachusetts
- **Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems:** \$2,848,900 for work in the Pacific Northwest including the Washington and Oregon coast.
- **Northeast Regional Association for Coastal and Ocean Observing:** \$2,340,760 for work in the U.S. north Atlantic, from the New York Bight north to the Canadian maritime provinces.
- **Pacific Integrated Ocean Observing System:** \$2,757,500 for work in the Pacific, including U.S. Pacific, Pacific nations in Free Association with the U.S., and U.S. Pacific Remote Island Areas.
- **Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System:** \$2,468,098 for work in the Pacific from the Mexico border north to Point Conception.
- **Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association:** \$2,598,965 for work in the Atlantic & eastern Gulf of Mexico, from Florida north through the Carolinas.

Additional funds have been awarded to the Alliance for Coastal Technologies, and the Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed. Further funding is awarded via the [IOOS Ocean Technology Transition project](#).

The funds are distributed primarily through new five-year cooperative agreements with 11 regional associations, which coordinate local coastal observing and decision support projects, benefiting their local communities.

These agreements help NOAA and IOOS in developing a regional coastal intelligence network that bolsters national-level investments by 17 federal agencies. IOOS is building a network of people, technology and data that helps us understand and forecast changes in our oceans and climate; prepare for and respond to coastal disasters; balance the needs of coastal resource use, economic development, and environmental stewardship.

U.S. IOOS is a federal, regional and private sector partnership working to enhance the ability to collect, deliver and use ocean information. IOOS delivers data and information needed to increase understanding of our ocean and coasts so that decision makers can act to improve safety, enhance the economy, and protect the environment. For more information visit [ioos.noaa.gov](http://ioos.noaa.gov).

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

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